



Next Generation

Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Defining moments

“When a defining moment comes along, you can define the moment or the moment can define you.”

— *Tin Cup*

This is probably my favorite quote, and it comes from the movie *Tin Cup*. In the movie, Kevin Costner plays Roy “Tin Cup” McAvoy, a once-promising college golfer who has become a driving range pro in a small Texas town. In the movie, the Roy is trying to get back into the game he loves and win the heart of Rene Russo’s character by winning the U.S. Open golf championship.

Roy has this go-for-it attitude toward life, which tends to get him in trouble both on the golf course and in his personal life. His approach to life is what defines him at the U.S. Open.

Defining moments are typically thought of as those standout moments in life — the big speech; the final drive at a show; or, for Roy, the U.S. Open. But I contend that defining moments are much more mundane and happen every day.

At a show this year, I went out to clean up tie-outs, and as I was walking to the tie-outs, I noticed two people from the state tied next to my cattle seemingly having a conversation. Rather, the lady in the conversation was lecturing one of the state advisors for some reason or another. She is most likely a very nice, sweet lady, but considering the way she was talking or screaming, she would have made a very good sailor. I saw her later in the week and couldn’t help but remember that first impression. It will take a lot of work for her to define herself in any other light.

And then there was my first Eastern Regional show in 1996. I was just a little guy at about 4-foot-nothing and 60 pounds soaking wet. I was showing a January junior yearling heifer that was big enough I had to look under her neck to see the judge.

It was just my luck that on show day, my heifer came into heat. She tried to mount everything in front of her in the ring, and I was too short to hang on to the lead strap when she jumped.

I was starting to get upset, but the young man in front of me whose heifer was getting mounted caught my heifer and said to me, “It’s okay, you’re doing just fine.” It was just a short moment and a few simple words, but to this day, I can’t help but remember how it made me feel. That moment encourages me to take the time to speak to everyone who’s having trouble with his or her animal.

Defining moments are not made defining moments by the situation in which they appear, but by the actions of the people in them. I challenge you to remember that, at all times, your actions can be noticed and make an impact on people you don’t even know. So live in every moment, define yourself the way you want to be seen at every opportunity and take every opportunity to brighten someone’s day, because at any moment, you could affect someone’s life.

— **Joe Epperly, NJAA director**



Joe Epperly

SPOTLIGHTS

Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Filer, Idaho, June 21



► **Tessa Faulkner, Gooding,** is the Idaho Junior Angus queen.

Iowa State Fair Angus Show, Des Moines, Aug. 15



► **Lauren Schroeder (left),** Clarence, is crowned Iowa Angus Queen. 2005 Iowa Angus Queen Laura Mommsen, DeWitt, assists.

Ozark Empire Fair Open Angus Show, Springfield, Mo., July 29



► The Southwest Missouri Junior Angus Ass’n announced year-end awards. Winners are (from left) **Erica Atkinson, Republic,** show heifer of the year; **Ashley Gillig, Aurora,** bred-and-owned heifer of the year, member of the year, and cow-calf pair of the year; and **Brett Naylor, Buffalo,** show bull of the year.

▶ NEXT GENERATION

Angus juniors excel

Katrina Frey, Quarryville, Pa., won the girls' division of the Angus Judging Contest at the Pennsylvania Angus Breeders' Show in Huntingdon July 8. See the *Showring* insert in this issue for other results of the show.

Lynsey Frey of Granville, N.D., was awarded the 2006 North Dakota Junior Beef Expo (NDJBE) Scholarship at the 12th annual show in Williston, N.D. The \$200 scholarship was established in 2001 to recognize and reward students who have developed their social and leadership skills and have expanded their beef knowledge through participation in the event.

Frey has been an exhibitor at the NDJBE for three years, participating in many of the industry activities and showing the reserve champion Angus heifer in 2005.

Frey has been recognized with special honors from several agricultural youth organizations. In FFA, she served as chapter president for three years. She is involved in the North Dakota junior Angus and Red Angus associations, serving in leadership and royalty positions in each.

As an incoming freshman, Frey will

pursue a pre-veterinary medicine degree at North Dakota State University this fall. After graduation, she hopes to continue her veterinary education. "I would like to work with both large and small animals, so that I can open my own clinic in the future," she said. "Returning to my home area will allow me to set up my own clinic and continue expanding my herd of registered black and Red Angus cattle on my family ranch."

The NDJBE Scholarship is funded through the show's silent auction.

NJAA members **Clair Martin**, Curryville, Mo., and **Christopher Perry**, Bethel, Mo., got a boost to their educational funds during

the Missouri State Fair Sale of Champions. Martin's reserve champion steer, a 1,290-lb. crossbred, was purchased for \$20,000 by Miller County Regional Stockyards and hometown supporters. Perry's grand champion market hog, a 261-lb. crossbred barrow, was purchased for \$17,000 by Mid-Missouri Energy and hometown supporters. Both animals were donated to the University of Missouri Tiger Training Table.

The record-setting Sale of Champions raised \$129,200 to benefit Missouri youth involved in agriculture. Proceeds of the sale go to the exhibitors and to Youth in Agriculture scholarships.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56

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▶ NEXT GENERATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55

▶ SPOTLIGHTS

▶ Wyoming Junior Angus Ass'n donation heifer



▶ Pannell Miss 663 was donated and sold to benefit the Wyoming Junior Angus Ass'n. She was donated by (from left) **Gavin LaFollette** and parents **Quin** and **Tracy LaFollette**, Black Summit Cattle Co., Cody; and **Katy Pannell** and parents **Jim** and **Kelly Pannell** along with daughter **Jacy Pannell**, Pannell Ranch, Alva. The heifer was purchased for \$8,000 by **Ben** and **Lindsay Simek** of Cody. The proceeds will be used to help fund the trip to the 2007 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla.

▶ Oregon State Fair Junior Angus Show, Salem, Aug. 26



▶ **Allison Burns**, Troutdale, was crowned the Oregon Angus Association queen.

